

Date: July 10, 2002

Location: Centennial Showboat, Harriet Island Park

MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Paulson, Jill Danner, William Dunnigan, Terry Huntrods, Ken Mauer, Heidi Welsch

MEMBERS ABSENT: John O'Halloran

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Bierscheid, Sandy Unger, Mike Rossberg

VISITORS: Jerome Wagner

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- C Chair Paulson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
- C The agenda for the meeting was approved as revised.
- C The minutes of the June 12 meeting were approved as written.
- C Visitor Jerome Wagner introduced himself as a concerned citizen interested in environmental matters.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- C Mr. Bierscheid reported having met with Mayor Kelly on June 12 for the first review of the adjusted Division budget. The Mayor seemed open to the Division's suggested adjustments. He may approve the budget by July, and adoption by the Council may occur by the end of August.
- C On July 17, the City Council will consider a resolution endorsing the Division's accreditation program.

- C Ms. Unger stated the Recreation Services Section is seeking to expend up to 70% of

available block grant funding by March 15, 2003. In addition, the section now plans to build a tier one skatepark at Front Recreation Center.

- C The Como Zoo and Conservatory Society and Campus staff are exploring ways to continue on with construction of the Education Resource Center despite losing \$3.2 million in anticipated revenues during the last legislative session.

3. ADVOCACY ISSUES

- C Ms. Unger reported the Recreation Services Section has examined how Wilder Recreation Center can provide better services to the public and supports entering into a management agreement with City Academy. According to the terms of this agreement, City Academy will manage the entire facility while the Division will continue to provide a complete recreation program. City Academy will develop a program to show young people how to become a recreation leader. Division staff will report to the site manager daily, the Division supervisor weekly. There will be no net loss in programs as a result of the new arrangement, while programming is likely to be improved for teenagers, soccer players and those interested in non-athletic activities. During the discussion that followed, Ms. Unger stated the Division will continue to perform maintenance services for the facility and will have access to the City Academy GED programs. Councilmember Reiter has expressed his support for this agreement.
- C Mr. Rossberg reported having been contacted during the day of the meeting with requests to place two resolutions on the Commission agenda. Resolution 02-17 seeks Commission support to name the tennis courts at Martin Luther King Recreation Center after Ernie Greene, while Resolution 02-18 seeks Commission concurrence with the request of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority that the developer be permitted to acquire the remaining right-of-way east of the centerline of vacated Toronto Street between Grace Street and the Osceola Connection. Commissioner Danner observed it would be improper to consider these resolutions without having listed them on the agendas sent to the public the previous week. A motion to table Resolutions 02-17 and 02-18 was made, seconded and approved 5-0.

4. COMMISSION STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES

- C The draft August 14 facility tour itinerary was approved as written.
- C Mr. Bierscheid announced that Patricia Freeman will be nominated for the 2002 Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association Special Award for her work with parks, recreation and natural resources, while Rebecca Stenberg will be nominated for the Dorothea Nelson award for a female member of MRPA with 15 or less years of

professional experience and outstanding service to the park, recreation and leisure services field. Commissioner Paulson made a motion that Commissioner Danner be

nominated in the Commission Board category for her long service to the Commission and work in establishing the Arlington-Arkwright Off-Leash Dog Area. Commissioner Huntrods seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

- C Commissioner Paulson reported he and Mr. Bierscheid will meet with Mayor Kelly on August 15. He plans to discuss the Division's shortage of resources, the need for an endowment fund, the proposed tree maintenance service charge, how the recreation center system can be structured most effectively, the need for fund-raising events and for good communications between the Commission and other City departments. He pointed to the matter of naming the proposed new Landmark Plaza park as an example of where the Commission had not been consulted on a matter germane to it.
- C Commissioner Huntrods noted that groundbreaking for new construction at the Como Campus has been postponed until spring. The Campus will be holding a fund-raising event on July 20 called Sunset Safari.
- C Commissioner Mauer has not received any notices from the Phalen Boulevard Task Force for two or three months. Staff will check with Paul St. Martin about this.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- C The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.